



JACOB'S HOPE

A newsletter of the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center



GUNDERSEN
NATIONAL CHILD
PROTECTION TRAINING CENTER

Our Mission:

End all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation through training, education, advocacy, prevention and awareness, providing care and treatment for children, families and adult survivors.

Our Vision:

Every child grows up in a healthy, safe world free from exploitation and abduction.

Our Values:

It's a kid's job to be a kid and it's the adult's job to protect all kids.

www.jwrc.org

Educating to Prevent: Sexting

Did you know that 63 percent of teens text every day? Texting now surpasses other daily communication, including cell phone calls, face-to-face socializing outside of school and emailing, according to the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project.

As technology changes, it becomes difficult for parenting strategies, school policies, and state and national laws to keep up with the new challenges. One technology trend that has impacted teens and their interactions with technology is "sexting."

A term invented by the media, sexting is commonly used to "describe the act of sending or receiving sexually explicit photos or images electronically, primarily between cell phones." Recent research shows sexting is more common than you may think.



Alison Feigh, MS, program coordinator, and Michelle Fournier, MSW, LISW, victim assistance specialist, of the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, explore this emerging trend and its dangers in their research article, "Educating to Prevent: Sexting." Visit jwrc.org to read the article and understand our role in helping to protect our nation's youth.

Wilderness Trek fundraiser celebrates 20 years

We are so thankful for this year's Wilderness Trek participants. In this, their 20th year, they broke all fundraising goals and set a new record of \$11,460!

The group, led by Jerry Wetterling, has raised more than \$144,000 for the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (JWRC) through this annual event.

"This trek is challenging, unifying, and most importantly, inspiring—knowing that we, trekkers, are helping to bring missing kids home and to prevent kids at home from being harmed," says Jerry Wetterling.

This year, the trek honored a long-time supporter of JWRC and trek participant of many years, Gary Boman, who passed away in June. Members of his family participated in this year's trek to honor his giving spirit.



In its 20th year, the Wilderness Trek surpassed its fundraising goals bringing in \$11,460 for the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center. It was definitely a trek worth celebrating!

Thank you to the Bomans, the Wetterlings, trek leader Bill Simpson and all of the trekkers for helping to support our mission this year and throughout the last 20 years.

A work of fiction, *Theory of Reminders*, helps real families of the missing

Minnesota author, Scott Dominic Carpenter, reached out to the staff at Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (JWRC) about his novel, *Theory of Reminders*. This story is told from the perspective of a searching parent and explores one father's attempts to find answers in his own child's disappearance.

As the novel was influenced by the abduction of Jacob Wetterling, Scott wanted to give back to an organization that lives out Jacob's legacy in its prevention and family assistance efforts. Thus, a portion of the proceeds from each book sold will be donated back to JWRC to help support our programs. Thank you for your consideration

in supporting our programs in this unique way. In addition, Scott has extended a special offer to readers of Jacob's Hope Newsletter. Any book club reading the novel may contact him to arrange a phone or Skype "author visit" (subject to scheduling).

Book reviews and more information can be found at sdcarpenter.com/theoryofremainders.html. Author visits can be coordinated through the web form at sdcarpenter.com/contact.html.



"This not only should be on your must-read list, it should be on your read it again and again one. It is poetry, suspense, life-changing reader revelation. Nothing I have read in the last three or four years even comes close."

– John Lehman, Rosebud Book Reviews

JWRC named 21st Century Community Champion



AAFCs president Sue Buck (pictured left) presents JWRC's Alison Feigh (pictured right) with the 21st Century Community Champion Award during the AAFCs 104th Annual Conference in Houston, Texas.

Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (JWRC) is the proud recipient of the 2013 21st Century Community Champion Award from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCs).

JWRC was honored at the AAFCs 104th Annual Conference and Expo in Houston, Texas, "in recognition of its leadership in promoting the connection between strong families and strong communities by creating viable projects and activities that build communities in which families are valued, supported and strengthened."

Alison Feigh, program coordinator, proudly accepted the award on behalf of JWRC, saying, "The work that we do at the

Jacob Wetterling Resource Center has always been anchored in a value from our co-founders, Jerry and Patty Wetterling that every child is special and deserves to be safe. Our prevention programs have grown with the times as we add new resources, such as online and cell phone safety messages, but our core messages today are the same as when we began in 1990. We educate families and community members about abuse and abduction without scaring them.

Thank you for honoring what JWRC has been able to accomplish, and we hope you will join us in building a safer world, one classroom and one family at a time."

Thank you, Just For Kids Foundation!

The Jacob Wetterling Resource Center is so thankful to be a charity of choice of the Minnesota-based Just For Kids Foundation. Their donations go a long way to support our work in the areas of prevention and advocacy.

JWRC received proceeds from a polar plunge and a summer golf tournament in 2013. We are so thankful for their ongoing support.

Pictured are Ryan Schulzetenberg, treasurer (left) and Scott Maciej, president of Just For Kids Foundation (right) presenting the check to JWRC program coordinator, Alison Feigh (middle).



Jacob Wetterling Resource Center

Now a program of the Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center

The Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (JRWC) became a program of Gundersen Health System in February 2013.

“We are excited that Gundersen brings new resources and support which will help us do the important work of keeping children safe. Our mission does not change, but our resources grow,” says Alison Feigh, JWRC program coordinator. One example of an exciting change you may have noticed is the new format and design of this newsletter. Since the merger with Gundersen Health System:

- JWRC offered training at 36 different locations and offered in-person resources at nine outreach events for schools, parent groups, faith communities and professional development. Our total audience reach was 3,369 professionals, caregivers and students.

- Our victim assistance program handled 167 client contacts. Thirty of these calls were related to sexual exploitation or child abuse, and 15 of these calls were new missing person intakes.

Thanks to our partnership with Gundersen Health System, community members like these will continue to reap the benefits of JRWC:

- *“This presentation got me excited to talk to my children about prevention.”* –Parent
- *“The JWRC will always be there... they’re amazing people and without them I’m not really sure how we could have survived...”* –Parent of an endangered runaway

JWRC program coordinator Alison Feigh was the guest speaker at the 17th Annual Blaine Safety Camp on July 9. The camp, organized by the Blaine Police, SBM Fire and Blaine Parks and Recreation departments, focused on reducing the number of accidental injuries and deaths among children. Alison spoke to more than 150 fourth graders about personal safety.



JWRC volunteer Brandon Baity (pictured left) and victim assistance specialist Michelle Fournier (pictured right) provide prevention education information at this year’s “Demand Change Project,” a conference hosted by Breaking Free.



Educational opportunities

National conference

July 21-23, Prevention and the Child Abuse Professional: Implementing Effective Child Abuse Prevention Programs, at the Mall of America, Bloomington, MN

This national conference is designed for attorneys, investigators, faith community leaders, teachers, medical/mental health providers, students and other child protection professionals. This three-day course will assist professionals in recognizing the factors in their communities contributing to

child abuse and exploitation, expose them to numerous evidence-based prevention programs that can be implemented in their communities and offer suggestions for collaborating with systems professionals to protect children and youth.

Please see our website for hotel locations and more information. Visit ncptc.org and click on Training Conferences to register.

Prevention webcasts

JWRC offers prevention webcasts every quarter. These online presentations are free and open to community leaders, parents, etc. They available for one week, as listed below. Online registration is required at jwrc.org.

If you would like to schedule a speaker for a group of teens, children, parents and/or community leaders, call (651) 714-4673 or email akfeigh@gundersenhealth.org. For additional information, visit ncptc.org. Click on Programs or visit jwrc.org.

Feb. 24-28	Protecting the Online Footprint	Alison Feigh, program coordinator, JWRC
May 12-16	Part of the Team: The Role of Advocates in Anti-violence Work	Michelle Fournier, victim assistance specialist, JWRC
Aug. 18-22	Teachable Safety Skills	Alison Feigh, program coordinator, JWRC
Dec. 15-19	Reporting without Re-victimizing	Alison Feigh, program coordinator, JWRC

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We need your help

Join our efforts to ensure every child grows up in a healthy, safe world—free from abuse exploitation and abduction.

Your donation will help us provide personal safety information and education to children, families and communities in Minnesota. All proceeds go to the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, a program of Gundersen Health System.

Gundersen Medical Foundation sponsors outreach activities, such as JWRC to improve community health and your Foundation support helps us to continue the fight against child maltreatment. Each charitable gift, whatever its size, makes the giver a partner in our work, and we are extremely grateful for that partnership!

If you would like to make a donation, visit foundation.gundersenhealth.org. Be sure to select NCPTC-Jacob Wetterling Resource Center from the designation drop-down menu.



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For more information

The Jacob Wetterling Resource Center merged with the Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center in February 2010. The merger is an effort to combine the groups' resources and strengthen common efforts to ensure every child grows up in a healthy, safe world free from



abuse, exploitation and abduction. Please visit jwrc.org to learn more. For information about Gundersen NCPTC, visit ncptc.org.

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